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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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USDA Forecasts Soybean Growers to Set Production Record

Washington, Nov. 9, 2010 – Aided by mild and dry conditions in October, U.S. soybean growers are forecast to set a new production record this year, according to the *Crop Production* report, released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Soybean production is forecast at 3.38 billion bushels, up 0.5 percent from the previous record, set in 2009. Based on Nov. 1 conditions, soybean yield is expected to average 43.9 bushels per acre, down 0.2 percent from 2009. Growers are expected to harvest a record-high 76.8 million acres of soybeans, 0.6 percent up from last year's acreage.

Corn production is forecast at 12.5 billion bushels, down 4.4 percent from last year's record. The yield is expected to average 154.3 bushels per acre, down 1.5 bushels from the previous forecast. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record. Corn growers are expected to harvest 81.3 million acres of corn this year, up 2.1 percent from last year's acreage.

All cotton production is forecast at 18.4 million bales, up 51.1 percent from last year. U.S. cotton production remains headed for the first production increase since 2005. The cotton yield is forecast at 821 pounds per acre, up 5.7 percent from last year. If realized this will be the fourth largest yield on record.

Last month, NASS also re-contacted barley, oats, Durum and other spring wheat growers in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. As a result of the additional surveying, updates have been made to the *Small Grains 2010 Summary*. All wheat production in the United States has been revised to 2.21 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Oat production is estimated at 81.2 million bushels, down 1 percent from the previous report. Barley production is revised to 180 million bushels, down 1 percent from the previous estimate.

All NASS reports, including the *Crop Production* report are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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